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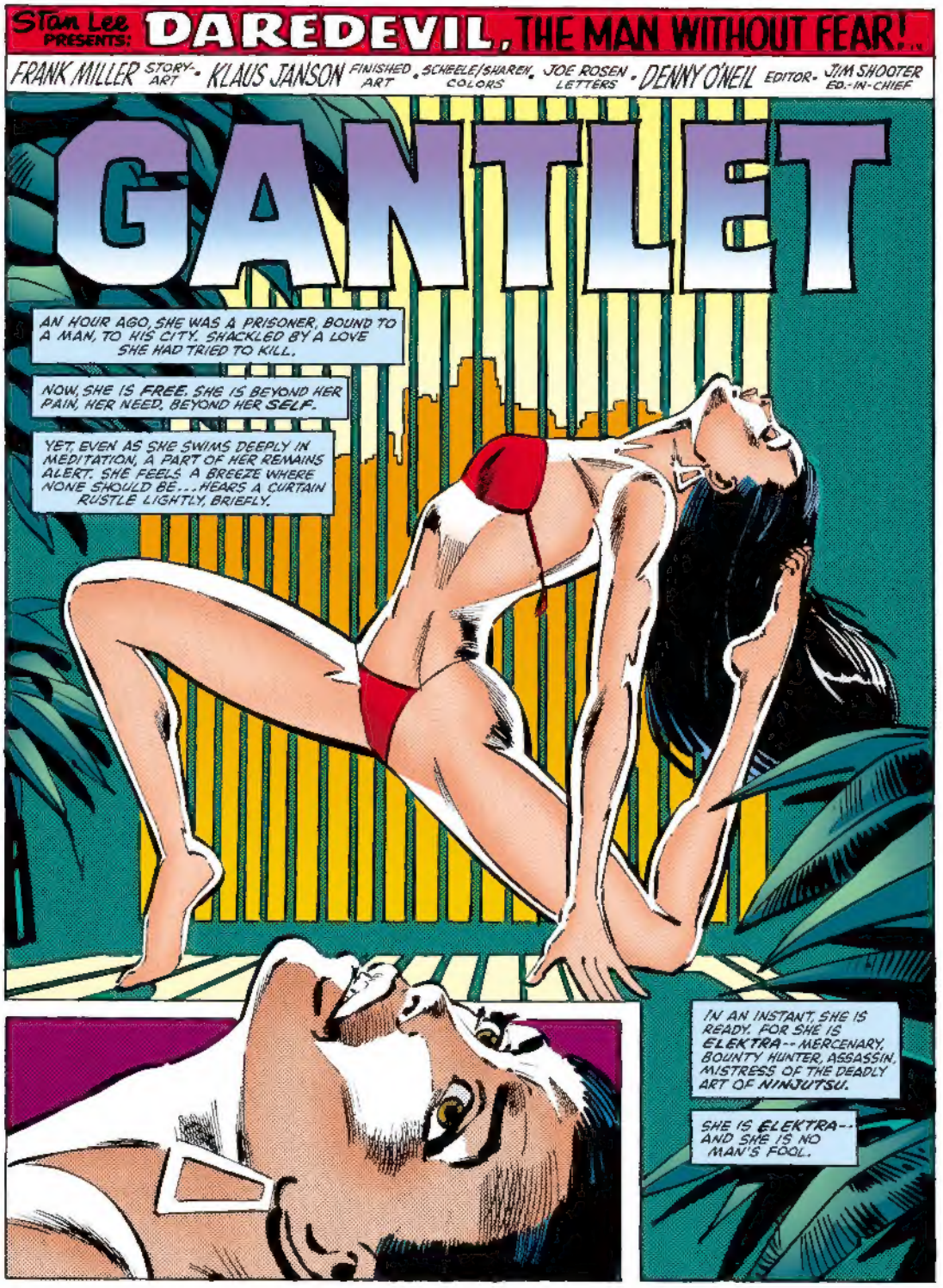
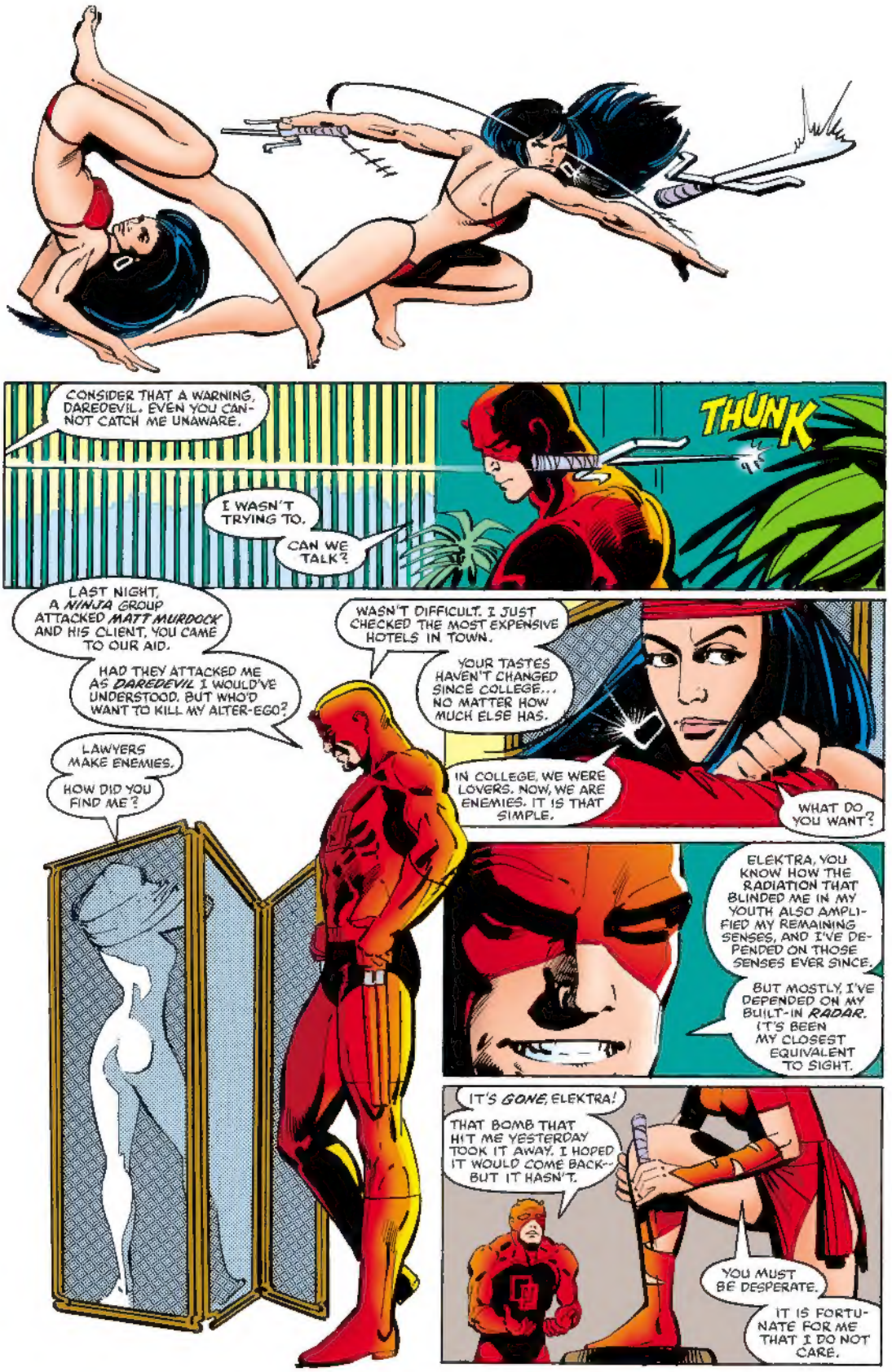
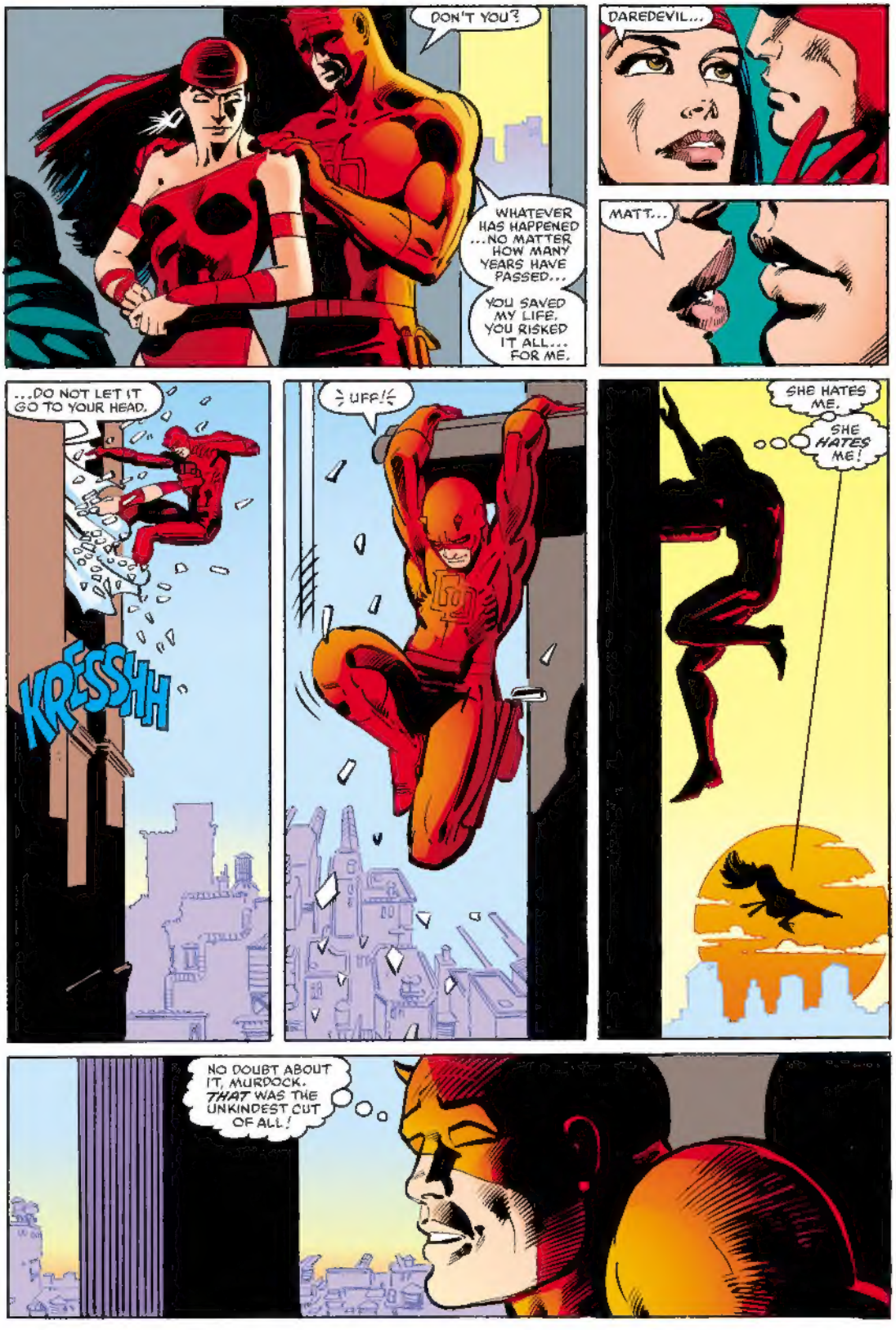
DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

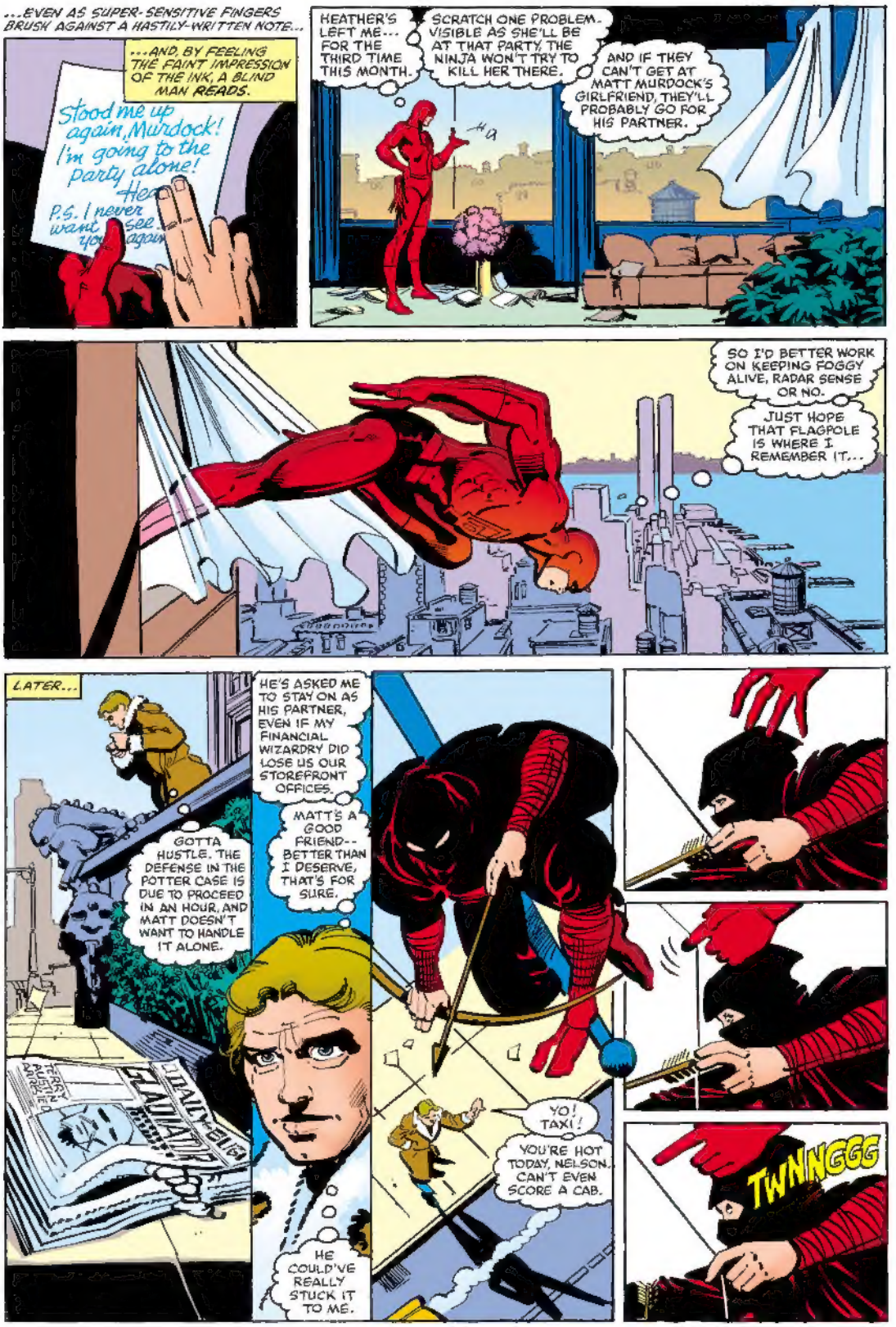
THE END?

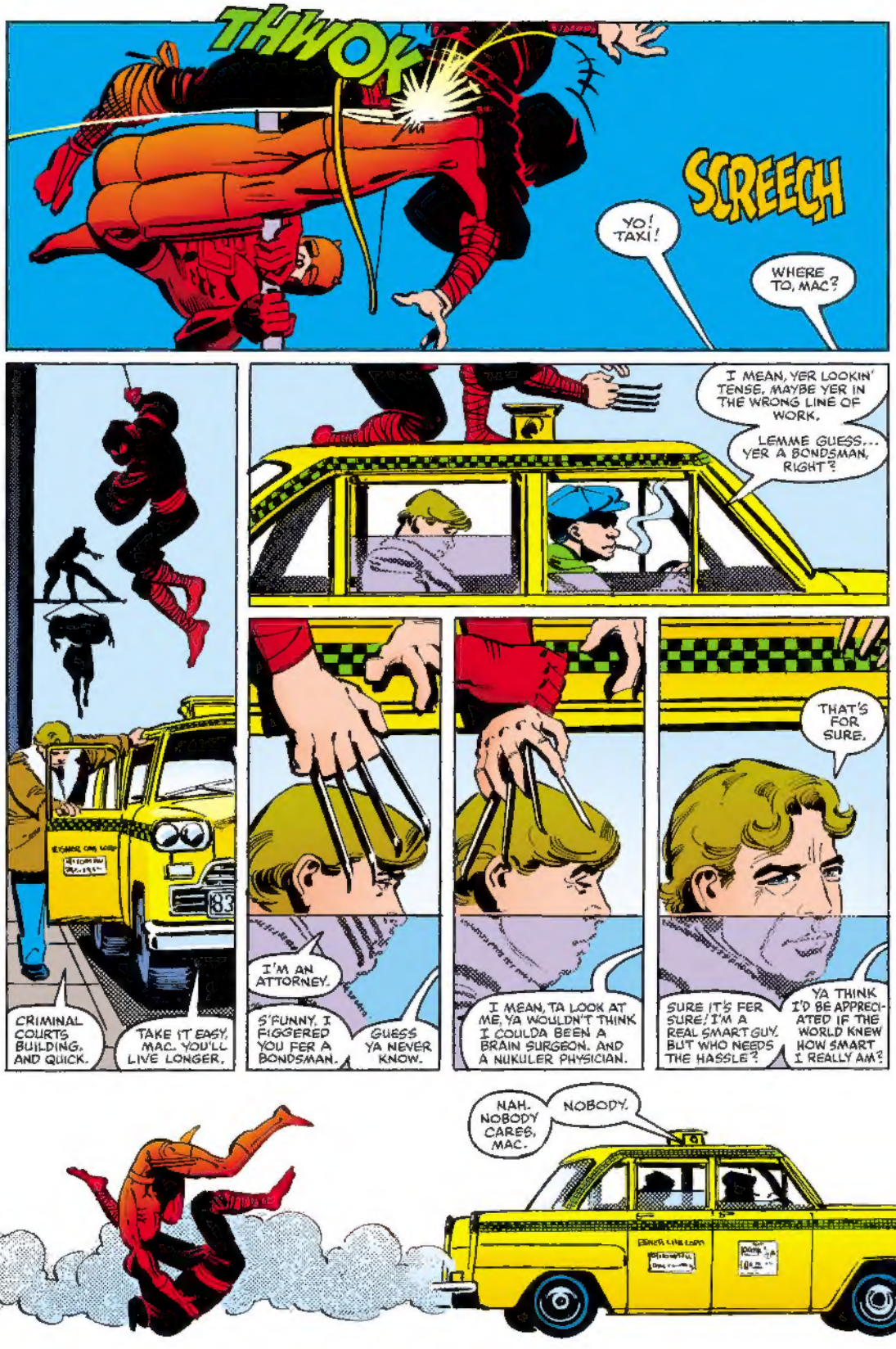

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
FRANK MILLER STORY-ART • KLAUS JANSON FINISHED ART • SCHEELE/SHAREN COLORS • JOE ROSEN LETTERS • DENNY O'NEIL EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER ED.-IN-CHIEF
GAUNTLET
AN HOUR AGO, SHE WAS A PRISONER, BOUND TO A MAN, TO HIS CITY. SHACKLED BY A LOVE SHE HAD TRIED TO KILL.
NOW, SHE IS FREE. SHE IS BEYOND HER PAIN, HER NEED, BEYOND HER SELF.
YET, EVEN AS SHE SWIMS DEEPLY IN MEDITATION, A PART OF HER REMAINS ALERT. SHE FEELS A BREEZE WHERE NONE SHOULD BE...HEARS A CURTAIN RUSTLE LIGHTLY, BRIEFLY.
IN AN INSTANT, SHE IS READY. FOR SHE IS ELEKTRA--MERCENARY, BOUNTY HUNTER, ASSASSIN, MISTRESS OF THE DEADLY ART OF NINJUTSU.
SHE IS ELEKTRA--AND SHE IS NO MAN'S FOOL.


CONSIDER THAT A WARNING, DAREDEVIL. EVEN YOU CANNOT CATCH ME UNAWARE.
I WASN'T TRYING TO.
CAN WE TALK?
THUNK
LAST NIGHT, A NINJA GROUP ATTACKED MATT MURDOCK AND HIS CLIENT. YOU CAME TO OUR AID.
HAD THEY ATTACKED ME AS DAREDEVIL I WOULD'VE UNDERSTOOD. BUT WHO'D WANT TO KILL MY ALTER-EGO?
LAWYERS MAKE ENEMIES.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
WASN'T DIFFICULT. I JUST CHECKED THE MOST EXPENSIVE HOTELS IN TOWN.
YOUR TASTES HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE COLLEGE... NO MATTER HOW MUCH ELSE HAS.
IN COLLEGE, WE WERE LOVERS. NOW, WE ARE ENEMIES. IT IS THAT SIMPLE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ELEKTRA, YOU KNOW HOW THE RADIATION THAT BLINDED ME IN MY YOUTH ALSO AMPLIFIED MY REMAINING SENSES, AND I'VE DEPENDED ON THOSE SENSES EVER SINCE.
BUT MOSTLY, I'VE DEPENDED ON MY BUILT-IN RADAR. IT'S BEEN MY CLOSEST EQUIVALENT TO SIGHT.
IT'S GONE, ELEKTRA!
THAT BOMB THAT HIT ME YESTERDAY TOOK IT AWAY. I HOPED IT WOULD COME BACK-- BUT IT HASN'T.
YOU MUST BE DESPERATE.
IT IS FORTUNATE FOR ME THAT I DO NOT CARE.

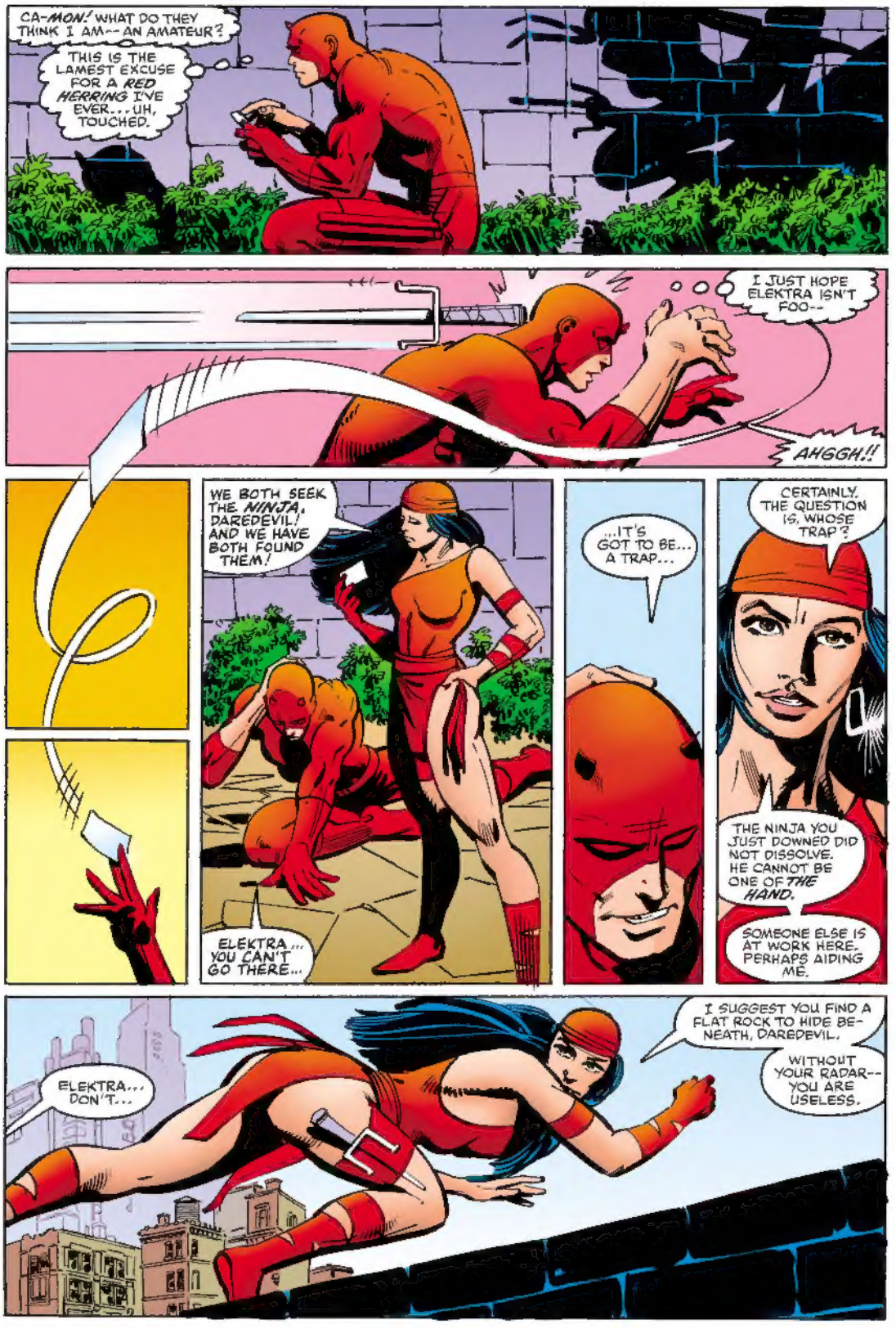

DON'T YOU?
WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED ...NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED...
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, YOU RISKED IT ALL... FOR ME.
DAREDEVIL...
MATT...
...DO NOT LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD.
KRESSHH
UFF!
SHE HATES ME.
SHE HATES ME!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MURDOCK. THAT WAS THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL!

WHHHSHKK
REMARKABLE.
THREE OF US...
...WITH BUT A SINGLE STROKE--!
MEANWHILE...
AS ALWAYS, YOU DID NOT FAIL ME, MY FRIEND. THE GENIN HAVE BEEN PUNISHED FOR THEIR FAILURE TO KILL THE MAN MURDOCK.
BUT IT IS NOT HE WHO YOU MUST NOW ELIMINATE.
RATHER, IT IS SHE WHO ABANDONED THE WAY OF THE HAND, AND HAS NOW RISEN AGAINST US.
RECEIVE NOW THE IMAGE...
...OF THE WOMAN ELEKTRA.
A PHOTOGRAPH BURNS, TOUCHED BY THE HAND OF A MASTER ASSASSIN...


...EVEN AS SUPER-SENSITIVE FINGERS BRUSH AGAINST A HASTILY-WRITTEN NOTE...
...AND, BY FEELING THE FAINT IMPRESSION OF THE INK, A BLIND MAN READS.
Stood me up again, Murdock! I'm going to the party alone!
P.S. I never want to see you again
HEATHER'S LEFT ME--- FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS MONTH.
SCRATCH ONE PROBLEM. VISIBLE AS SHE'LL BE AT THAT PARTY, THE NINJA WON'T TRY TO KILL HER THERE.
AND IF THEY CAN'T GET AT MATT MURDOCK'S GIRLFRIEND, THEY'LL PROBABLY GO FOR HIS PARTNER.
HA
SO I'D BETTER WORK ON KEEPING FOGGY ALIVE, RADAR SENSE OR NO.
JUST HOPE THAT FLAGPOLE IS WHERE I REMEMBER IT...
LATER...
GOTTA HUSTLE. THE DEFENSE IN THE POTTER CASE IS DUE TO PROCEED IN AN HOUR, AND MATT DOESN'T WANT TO HANDLE IT ALONE.
HE'S ASKED ME TO STAY ON AS HIS PARTNER, EVEN IF MY FINANCIAL WIZARDRY DID LOSE US OUR STOREFRONT OFFICES.
MATT'S A GOOD FRIEND-- BETTER THAN I DESERVE, THAT'S FOR SURE.
HE COULD'VE REALLY STUCK IT TO ME.
DAILY BUGLE
YO! TAXI!
YOU'RE HOT TODAY, NELSON. CAN'T EVEN SCORE A CAB.
TWNNGGG

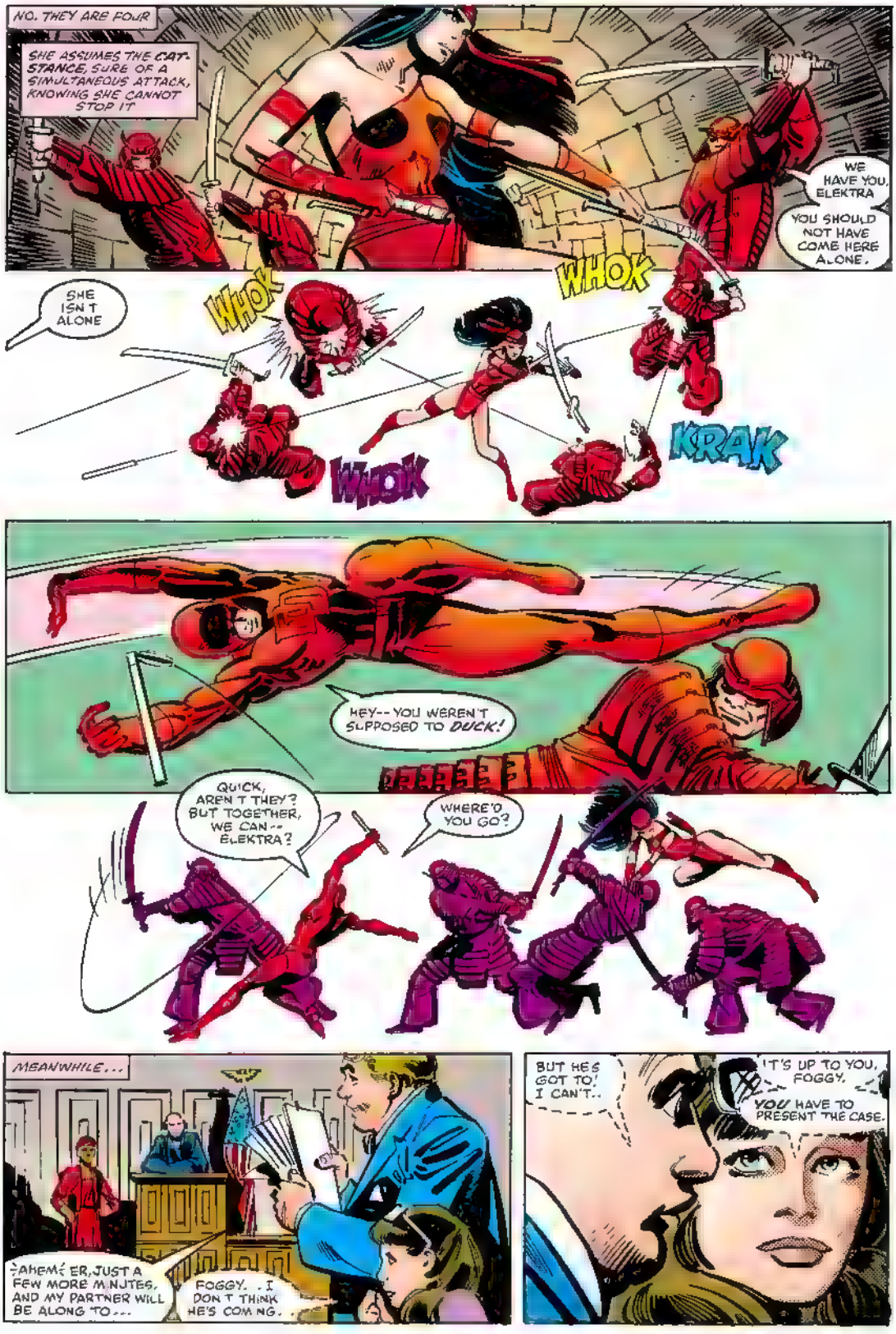

THWOK
SCREECH
YO! TAXI!
WHERE TO, MAC?
I MEAN, YER LOOKIN' TENSE. MAYBE YER IN THE WRONG LINE OF WORK.
LEMME GUESS... YER A BONDSMAN, RIGHT?
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING. AND QUICK.
TAKE IT EASY, MAC. YOU'LL LIVE LONGER.
I'M AN ATTORNEY.
S'FUNNY. I FIGGERED YOU FER A BONDSMAN.
GUESS YA NEVER KNOW.
I MEAN, TA LOOK AT ME, YA WOULDN'T THINK I COULDA BEEN A BRAIN SURGEON. AND A NUKULER PHYSICIAN.
THAT'S FOR SURE.
SURE IT'S FER SURE! I'M A REAL SMART GUY. BUT WHO NEEDS THE HASSLE?
YA THINK I'D BE APPRECIATED IF THE WORLD KNEW HOW SMART I REALLY AM?
NOBODY.
NAH. NOBODY CARES, MAC.

TALK TO ME, NINJA. WHERE'S YOUR HIDEOUT?
YOU WILL LEARN NOTH-UURRGH!!
CHUKK
DISSOLVING, JUST LIKE THE OTHERS. SMELLS AWFUL.
HIS 'BUDDY' IS HEADING FOR THE PARK. I COULD LOSE HIM IN THE UNDERBRUSH.
SO I WON'T LET HIM GET THAT FAR. I'LL JUST LISTEN FOR HIS FOOTSTEPS TO TOUCH THE RETAINING WALL...
...AND LET MY TRUSTY BILLY CLUB DO THE REST!
FAPP
HMM... HE DIDN'T DISSOLVE. COSTUME MUST BE ON THE FRITZ.
HEY-- WHAT'S THIS?
A WALLET-SIZED PIECE OF EMBOSSED BRISTOL... A BUSINESS CARD.
unusual weaponry
UKIFUNI ODDITIES
CANAL ST. & W.
NEW YORK


CA-MON! WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM-- AN AMATEUR?
THIS IS THE LAMEST EXCUSE FOR A RED HERRING I'VE EVER... UH, TOUCHED.
I JUST HOPE ELEKTRA ISN'T FOO--
AHGGH!!
WE BOTH SEEK THE NINJA, DAREDEVIL! AND WE HAVE BOTH FOUND THEM!
ELEKTRA... YOU CAN'T GO THERE...
...IT'S GOT TO BE... A TRAP...
CERTAINLY. THE QUESTION IS, WHOSE TRAP?
THE NINJA YOU JUST DOWNED DID NOT DISSOLVE. HE CANNOT BE ONE OF THE HAND.
SOMEONE ELSE IS AT WORK HERE. PERHAPS AIDING ME.
ELEKTRA... DON'T...
I SUGGEST YOU FIND A FLAT ROCK TO HIDE BENEATH, DAREDEVIL.
WITHOUT YOUR RADAR-- YOU ARE USELESS.

IN COURT...
ANOTHER DELAY?!
YOUR HONOR, THIS IS INTOLERABLE!
IT CERTAINLY IS.
COUNCIL IS CONSTRAINED TO PRESENT ITS CASE.
UH...AS YOU WISH, YOUR HONOR.
I REQUEST ONLY A FEW MOMENTS OF THE COURT'S INDULGENCE, WHILE I CONFER WITH MY ASSISTANT.
TIME IS SHORT, MR. NELSON. GET ON WITH IT.
WHERE IS HE, BECKY? WHERE'S MATT?
I THOUGHT HE WAS COMING WITH YOU!
I'M GONNA KILL HIM. I'M GONNA KILL HIM.
CANAL STREET...
HEY--OPEN UP, ALREADY! YELLER PAGES SAY YOU DON'T CLOSE TILL SIX!
TAP TAP TAP TAP
SO SORRY. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
IT AIN'T FER ME. IT'S FER RICKY.
HE'S, LIKE, MY BOYFRIEND, Y'KNOW, AN' IT'S, LIKE IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY, AN' HE WANTS SOME OF THEM THERE FALLING STARS!
FALLING--? YOU MUST MEAN THROWING STARS. SHURIKEN.
YEAH. THAT'S THEM!
SURE ARE PRETTY. I'LL TAKE ALL OF 'EM.
THEY ARE EXPENSIVE.
SO WHAT? Y'ONLY LIVE ONCE, Y'KNOW?

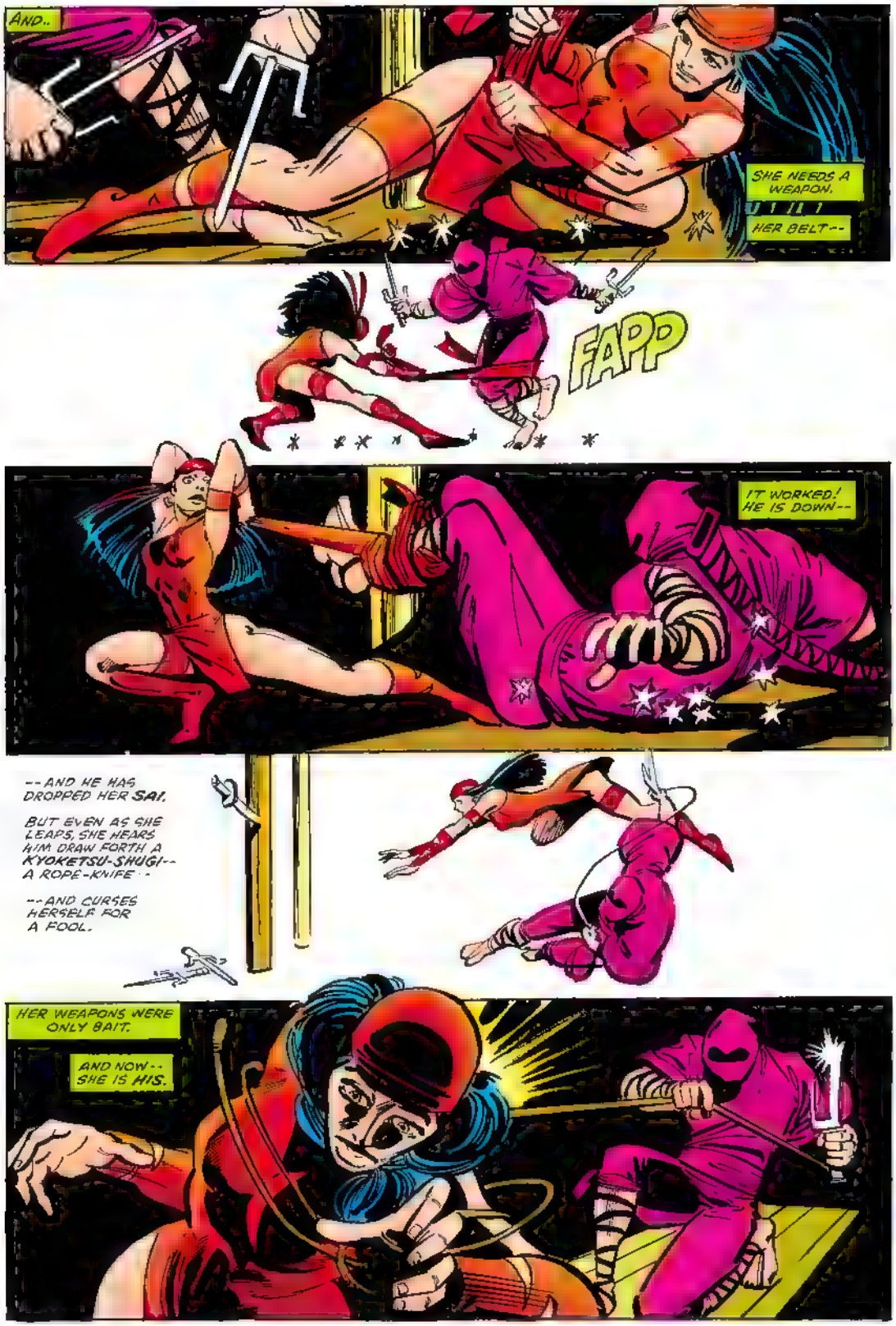
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
JONIN!
IT IS SHE!
ELEKTRA HAS FOUND US! SHE--
NNNNGGG
THUNK
SHE HAS LOST THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE
THREE OF THE JONIN'S GUARD AWAIT HER...

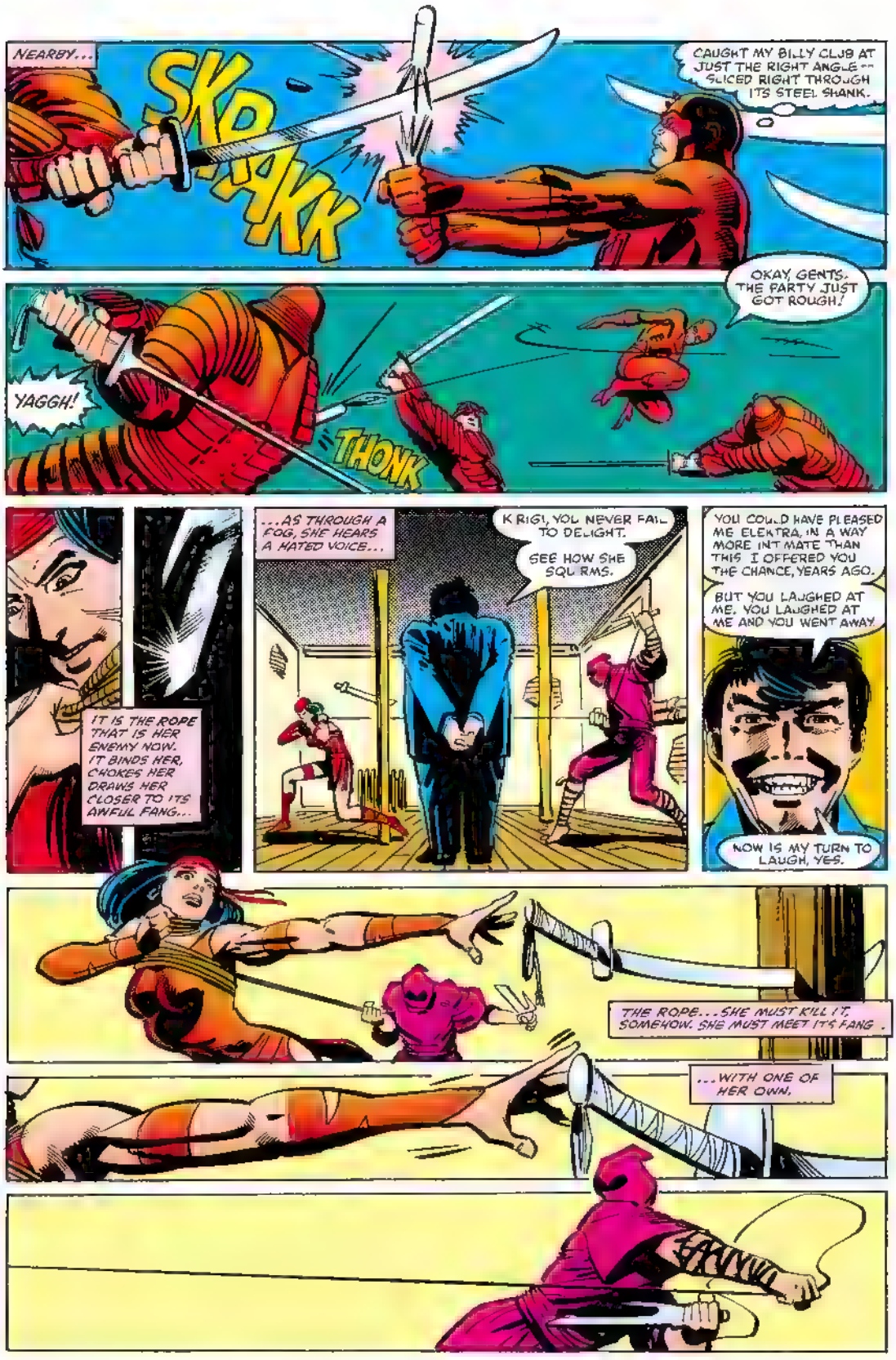

NO. THEY ARE FOUR
SHE ASSUMES THE CAT-STANCE, SURE OF A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK, KNOWING SHE CANNOT STOP IT
WE HAVE YOU, ELEKTRA
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE ALONE.
SHE ISN'T ALONE
WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
KRAK
HEY-- YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DUCK!
QUICK, AREN'T THEY? BUT TOGETHER, WE CAN-- ELEKTRA?
WHERE'D YOU GO?
MEANWHILE...
AHEM! ER, JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, AND MY PARTNER WILL BE ALONG TO...
FOGGY. . I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING.
BUT HE'S GOT TO! I CAN'T..
IT'S UP TO YOU, FOGGY.
YOU HAVE TO PRESENT THE CASE.

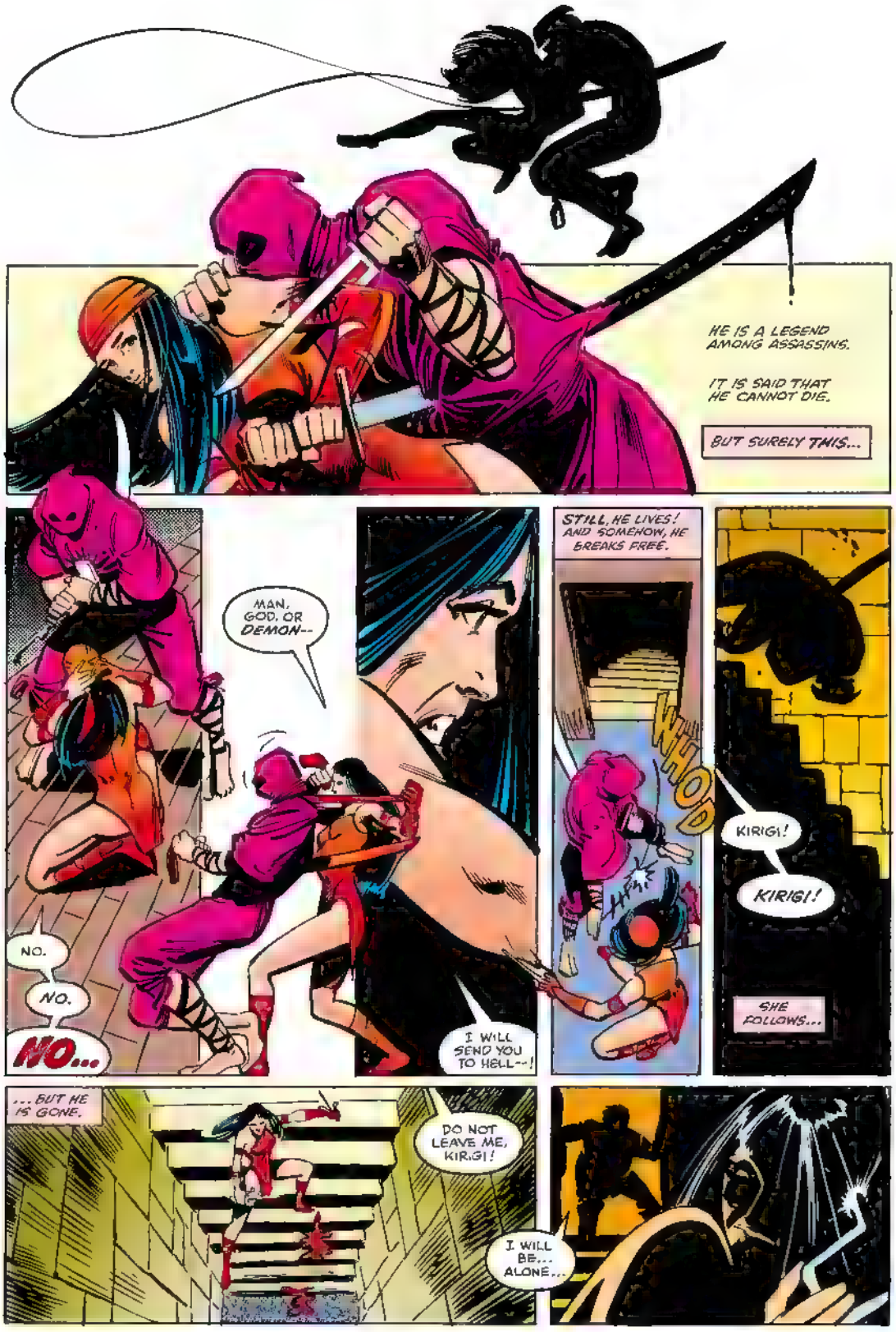
HUDDLED ABOUT THEIR CAMPFIRES, MASTER WARRIORS OF OLD JAPAN SPOKE FEARFULLY OF THE NINJA, WHO SEEMED POSSESSED WITH MYSTIC WAYS OF DEALING DEATH.
BUT THE NINJA KNEW A TERROR ALL THEIR OWN. THEY WOULD SHUDDER AND GRASP THEIR SWORDHILTS, AND THE LONG NIGHT WOULD PASS WITHOUT SLEEP--IF THEY HEARD A SINGLE NAME.
KIRIGI.
KTANGG
SHE DID NOT EXPECT SO OBVIOUS AN ASSAULT.
BUT, AS THE STAIRWELL IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS, SHE UNDERSTANDS.
SHE MUST COME TO HIM.
AT HER FEET--TETSUBISHI. THE LEGEND HAS MADE HIS FIRST MISTAKE
THESE BLADED, POISONED CALTROPS PROTECT HER FRONT AND SIDE--
--LEAVING HIM ONLY ONE AVENUE OF ATTACK..

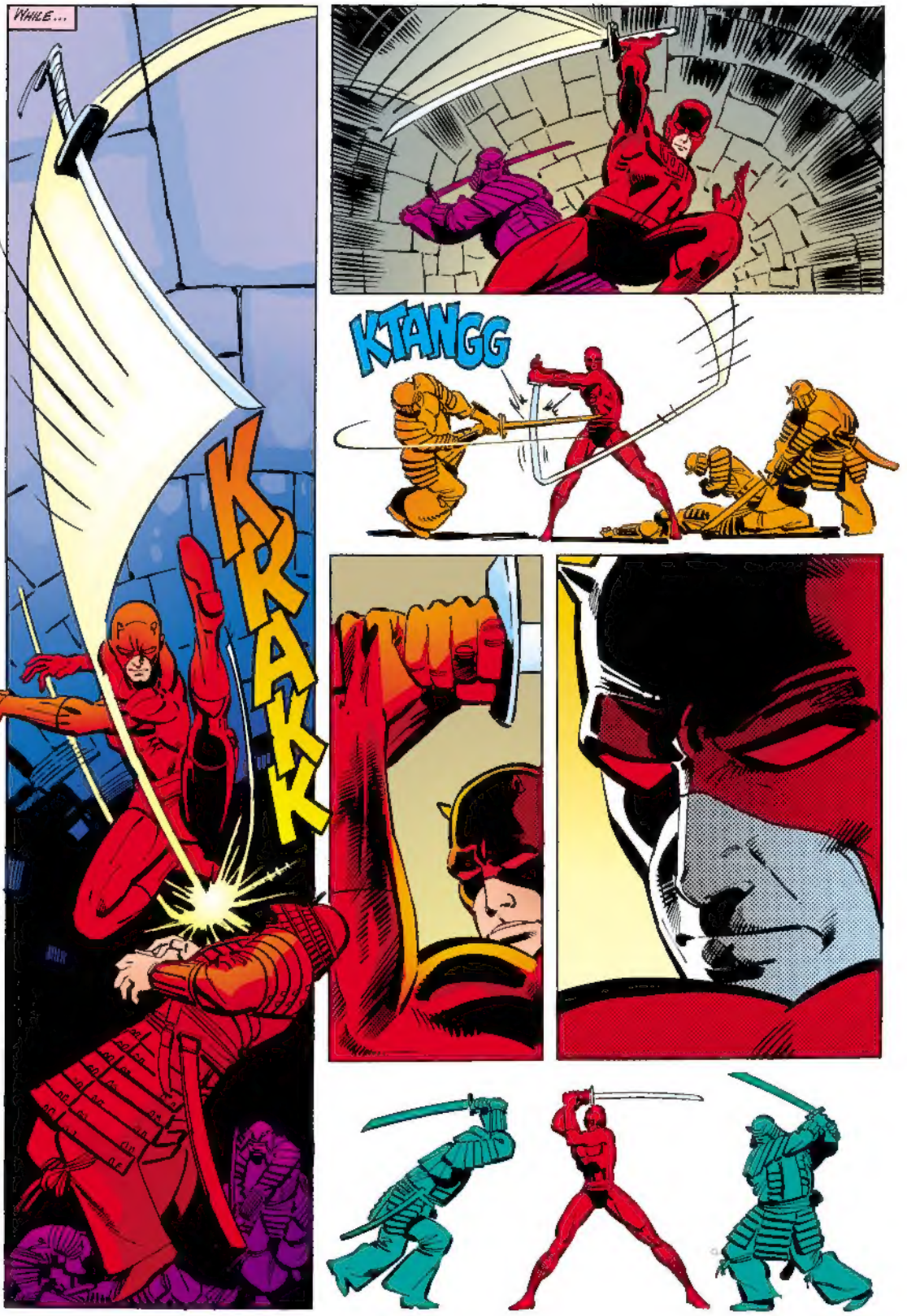
KUNNGG
SHKKK
A KILLING BLOW.
CHKK
THNK
IT IS SAID THAT KIRIGI HAS SERVED A SCORE OF JONIN--ACROSS A SPAN OF CENTURIES.
IT IS SAID THAT NO MORTAL FORCE CAN BRING HIM HARM.
ELEKTRA HAS NEVER BELIEVED THESE TALES...
...UNTIL NOW.

MEANWHILE...
WHUDD
SAY! I'LL BET THAT SMARTS
CHK
AHGHH!
LUCKY BREAK. ONLY THREE OF THEM LEFT NOW.
I MAY JUST GET OUT OF THIS AL--
UUUNGG!
HE'S WOUNDED! NOW IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
ELSEWHERE...
TICK TICK TICK TICK
TICK TICK TICK TICK
TAP TAP TAP TAP
YOUR HONOR
...THE DEFENSE MOVES FOR A MISTRIAL..

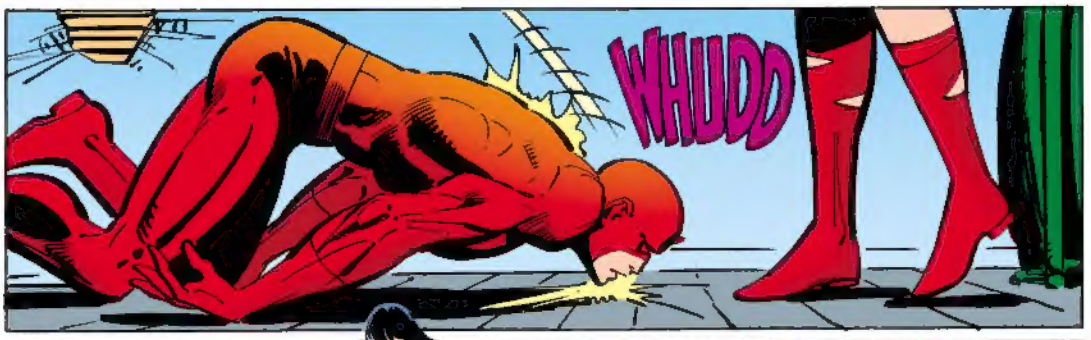

AND..
SHE NEEDS A WEAPON.
HER BELT--
FAPP
IT WORKED! HE IS DOWN--
--AND HE HAS DROPPED HER SAI.
BUT EVEN AS SHE LEAPS, SHE HEARS HIM DRAW FORTH A KYOKETSU-SHUGI-- A ROPE-KNIFE--
--AND CURSES HERSELF FOR A FOOL.
HER WEAPONS WERE ONLY BAIT.
AND NOW-- SHE IS HIS.


NEARBY...
SKR-AKK
CAUGHT MY BILLY CLUB AT JUST THE RIGHT ANGLE -- SLICED RIGHT THROUGH ITS STEEL SHANK.
OKAY, GENTS. THE PARTY JUST GOT ROUGH!
YAGGH!
THONK
IT IS THE ROPE THAT IS HER ENEMY NOW. IT BINDS HER, CHOKES HER DRAWS HER CLOSER TO ITS AWFUL FANG...
...AS THROUGH A FOG, SHE HEARS A HATED VOICE...
KRIGI, YOU NEVER FAIL TO DELIGHT.
SEE HOW SHE SQUIRMS.
YOU COULD HAVE PLEASED ME ELEKTRA, IN A WAY MORE INTIMATE THAN THIS I OFFERED YOU THE CHANCE, YEARS AGO.
BUT YOU LAUGHED AT ME. YOU LAUGHED AT ME AND YOU WENT AWAY.
NOW IS MY TURN TO LAUGH, YES.
THE ROPE...SHE MUST KILL IT. SOMEHOW. SHE MUST MEET ITS FANG.
...WITH ONE OF HER OWN.


HE IS A LEGEND AMONG ASSASSINS.
IT IS SAID THAT HE CANNOT DIE.
BUT SURELY THIS...
MAN, GOD, OR DEMON--
NO.
NO.
NO...
I WILL SEND YOU TO HELL--!
STILL, HE LIVES! AND SOMEHOW, HE BREAKS FREE.
WHOP
KIRIGI!
KIRIGI!
SHE FOLLOWS...
...BUT HE IS GONE.
DO NOT LEAVE ME, KIRIGI!
I WILL BE... ALONE...

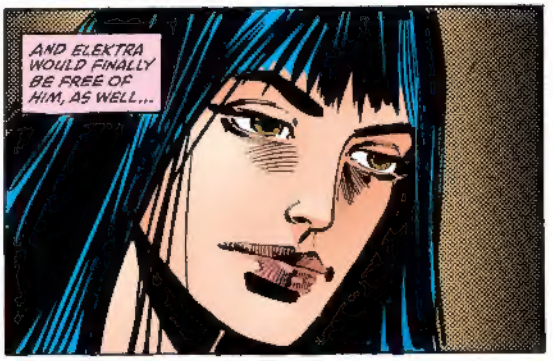

WHILE...
KRAK
KTANGG

KCHA K
SK EKK
GENTLEMEN.
THE JONIN DIED QUICKLY, IF NOT SILENTLY.
THE HAND WILL HUNT HER NO LONGER.
SHE IS FREE.
YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL, ELEKTRA.
YOU'RE A KILLER... A COLD-BLOODED ASSASSIN...
...AND I'M TAKING... YOU... IN...

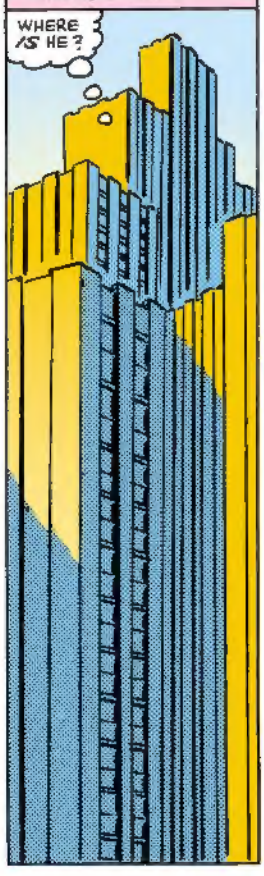


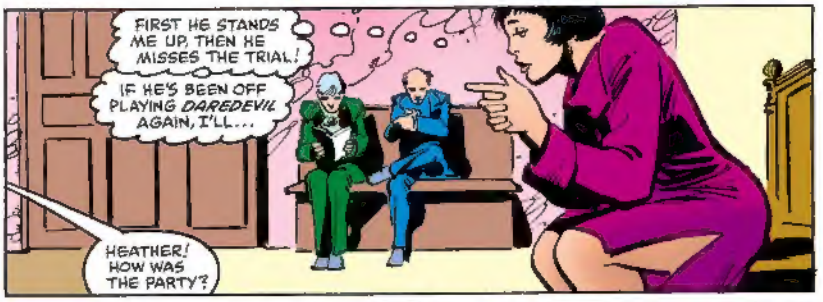
PASSED OUT... AND LOSING A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF BLOOD.

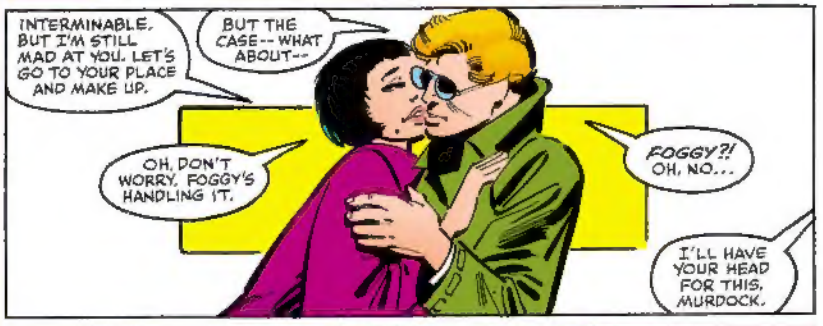
LEFT HERE, UNBANDAGED, HE WOULD SURELY DIE.



LATER, AT THE CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING...






INTERMINABLE, BUT I'M STILL MAD AT YOU. LET'S GO TO YOUR PLACE AND MAKE UP.
BUT THE CASE-- WHAT ABOUT--
OH, DON'T WORRY, FOGGY'S HANDLING IT.
FOGGY?! OH, NO...
I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS, MURDOCK.

WIN...?
FIRST, YOU MAKE IT LOOK LIKE NELSON AND MURDOCK HAVE SPLIT--
--THEN IN PRANCES YOUR CHUBBY PARTNER WITH SOME GODFORSAKEN LEGAL PRECEDENT NOBODY'S EVER HEARD OF--
--AND GETS THE WHOLE CASE THROWN OUT OF COURT!
THAT'S DIRTY POOL, MURDOCK. AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT.

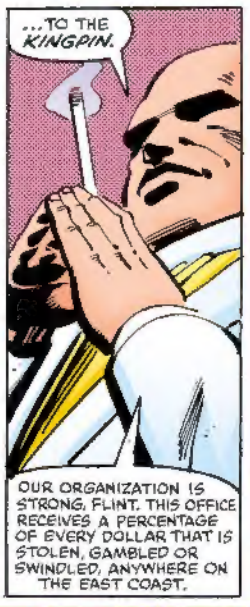
IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU THE WHOLE TIME, MATT. THE STOELTING VS. WEST DECISION OF '32. I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T THINK OF IT.
ANY REPLY TO THE PROSECUTOR'S CHARGES, MURDOCK?

UH...

WHAT MY PARTNER IS TRYING TO SAY, FELLAS, IS THAT IF MS. LAVENDER ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT NELSON AND MURDOCK WOULD EVER CLOSE UP SHOP--
--WELL, WE'VE GOT A BRIDGE SHE CAN BUY, TOO!
RIGHT, MATT?

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...
YER PLAN WORKED, BOSS. JUST CAME OVER THE HORN.

ALL YOU HADDA DO WAS HIRE THAT NINJA GROUP TO KILL A FRIEND OF DAREDEVIL'S-- AND PLANT THEIR LOCATION ON ONE OF OUR BOYS--
--AND DD WENT AND BUSTED THEM UP FOR YA!
TOO BAD WE STILL GOT HIM TO WORRY ABOUT.
DAREDEVIL IS A MINOR WORRY INDEED...


...TO THE KINGPIN.
OUR ORGANIZATION IS STRONG, FLINT. THIS OFFICE RECEIVES A PERCENTAGE OF EVERY DOLLAR THAT IS STOLEN, GAMBLED OR SWINDLED, ANYWHERE ON THE EAST COAST.

I SHALL DEAL WITH DAREDEVIL... WHEN THE TIME COMES.

NEXT ISSUE: HUNTERS!